

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-9, 11, 13-16, and 40-51 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 9 being the independent claims. Claims 10, 12, 17, 18, and 37-39 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 40-51 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2004/0148632 to Park et al. ("Park"). Claim 17 has been cancelled by the foregoing amendment, thereby rendering the rejection of claim 17 moot.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 6-12, and 16

Claims 1, 2, 6-12, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Park in view of U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2003/0227439 to Lee et al. ("Lee"). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse.

Park is directed to an integrated remote controller and a main set-top-box for controlling a plurality of appliances. (Park, paragraphs [0009]-[0011].) Specifically, the integrated remote controller allows a user to control the plurality of appliances remotely through the main set-top-box. (Park, paragraphs [0059]-[0060].) The main set-top-box is connected to the plurality of appliances through wired and/or wireless means. (*Id.*)

Park, at paragraphs [0060]-[0062], provides the example of an appliance control signal being sent from an integrated remote controller to a set-top-box. The set-top-box, after receiving the appliance control signal, would read “information about the corresponding appliance” and control “the appliance through an internal communication interface connected to the appliance.” (Park, paragraph [0060]-[0062].) At most, this portion of Park (or any other portion of Park for that matter) discloses receiving a command to control a single appliance and controlling *only* the single appliance based on the received command.

Thus, Park does not teach or suggest “a remote interface configured to receive a remote control signal that includes a request for an action to be performed at one of the distributed electronic devices” and “a controller configured to generate management instructions to adjust the distributed electronic *devices* based on the action to be performed at *the one of* the distributed electronic devices and the device information” as recited in claim 1.

Lee does not cure the deficiencies of Park. Lee is directed to a system and method for automatically detecting the location of a person and adapting the conditions in the region of a local environment where the user is located. (Lee, paragraphs [0009]-[0010].) Specifically, in Lee, a control unit “receives images

associated with one or more regions of the local environment” and “processes the images to identify, from a group of known persons associated with the local environment, any known persons located in one or more of the regions.” (Lee, paragraph [0010].) For an identified person, “the control unit generates control signals so that one or more controllable devices or systems that service the respective region in which the identified person is located is adjusted to reflect the known person’s preferences.” (*Id.*)

At most, Lee “*receives images* associated with one or more regions of the local environment” and, based on these images, controls one or more devices or systems that service a respective region. (Lee, paragraph [0010].)

Thus, Lee does not teach or suggest “a remote interface configured to receive *a request for an action to be performed at a single one of the distributed electronic devices.*” Receiving a “request for an action” as recited in claim 1 is not the same, or even comparable to, receiving an image as taught by Lee.

Moreover, since Lee does not teach or suggest receiving “*a request for an action to be performed at one of the distributed electronic devices,*” Lee logically cannot teach or suggest “a controller configured to generate management instructions to adjust the distributed electronic devices *based on the action to be performed at the one of the distributed electronic devices* and the device information” as recited in Applicants’ claim 1.

Because the combination of Park and Lee does not teach or suggest each and every feature of independent claim 1, they cannot render claim 1 unpatentable. Dependent claims 2 and 6-8 are similarly not rendered unpatentable by the combination of Park and Lee for at the same reasons as independent claim 1, from

which they depend, and further in view of their own respective features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Independent claim 9 recites, among other features, “receiving a remote control signal that includes a request for an action to be performed at one of the distributed electronic device” and “generating management instructions to adjust the distributed electronic devices based on the action to be performed at the single one of the electronic devices and the device information.” As noted above, in regard to claim 1, the combination of Park and Lee does not teach or suggest at least these features. Therefore, the combination of Park and Lee cannot render independent claim 9 unpatentable. Dependent claims 11 and 16 are similarly not rendered unpatentable by the combination of Park and Lee for at the same reasons as independent claim 9, from which they depend, and further in view of their own respective features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 9, 11, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 10 and 12 have been cancelled by the above amendment, thereby rendering the rejection of claims 10 and 12 moot.

Claims 3-5 and 13-15

Claims 3-5 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Park in view of Lee, and further in view of U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2005/0117052 to Willes et al. (“Willes”). For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully traverse

Willes does not cure the deficiencies of Park and Lee with respect to independent claim 1, as noted above. Dependent claims 3-5 are similarly not

rendered unpatentable by the combination of Park, Lee, and Willes for the same reason as claim 1, from which they depend, and further in view of their own respective features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Willes does not cure the deficiencies of Park and Lee with respect to independent claim 9, as noted above. Dependent claims 13-15 are similarly not rendered unpatentable by the combination of Park, Lee, and Willes for the same reason as claim 9, from which they depend, and further in view of their own respective features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 18

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,741,240 to Akaiwa *et al.* ("Akaiwa") in view of Park. Claim 18 has been cancelled by the foregoing amendment, thereby rendering the rejection of claim 18 moot.

Claims 37 and 38

Claims 37 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park and Lee, and further in view of Akaiwa. Claims 37 and 38 have been cancelled by the foregoing amendment, thereby rendering the rejection of claims 37 and 38 moot.

Claim 39

Claim 39 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park, Lee, and Akaiwas, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,263,502 to Morrison

et al. ("Morrison"). Claim 39 has been cancelled by the foregoing amendment, thereby rendering the rejection of claim 39 moot.

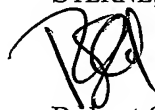
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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